

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 48-67 and 86-96 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1-47 and 68-85 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

§103 Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 26, 31-33, 37-41, 43-47, 68-70, 72-79, and 81-85

In Section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 26, 31-33, 37-41, 43-47, 68-70, 72-79, and 81-85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over James *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,631,415; hereinafter referred to as "James") in view of Vonbank *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,103; hereinafter referred to as "Vonbank").

Claims 1, 2, 26, 31-33, 37-41, 43-47, 68-70, 72-79, and 81-85 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is appreciatively noted that claims 48-67 and 86-96 are allowed over cited prior art references.

It is also appreciatively noted that claims 3-25, 27-30, 42, 71, and 80 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 48-67 and 86-96 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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